

HOTELS *by* DESIGN

*A guide
to the most
beautifully
designed
hotels in the
world*

HOUSE
& GARDEN

AT A GLANCE

A bird's-eye view of some of the most exciting hotel openings, by Pamela Goodman

Europe

ENGLAND/SCOTLAND

Later this year, **The Arts Club** in Dover Street - currently a combination of restaurants, bar and nightclub for members only - will open 16 sumptuous, art-deco-style rooms, on the top three floors of the building. Non-members, who will have access to the rest of the club during their stay, will be welcome. South of the river, the 359-room **Mondrian London**, designed by Tom Dixon, opens in Sea Containers House. St Mawes, Cornwall welcomed **The Idle Rocks** hotel last year, the owners of which have recently acquired the nearby **St Mawes Hotel**. In Scotland, Andy Murray has diverted his attention from tennis with the purchase of **Cromlix House** (left). The Perthshire hotel, which has been closed for a complete refurbishment, opened on April 1 with 15 rooms and suites and a restaurant by Chez Roux.



ICELAND

'Where everything meets nothing' is the strapline for Iceland's new **Ion Luxury Adventure Hotel**. Striking in design, the hotel has a backdrop of mountains and lava fields, an hour's drive from Reykjavik. Check out the 10-metre hot tub and the dramatic Northern Lights bar.



SPAIN/PORTUGAL

In west Majorca, with views of the Tramuntana Mountains, an eighteenth-century castle began life anew last summer as **Castell Son Claret** (right). Set in 325 acres of formal gardens, orchards, herb gardens, terraces and pools, the hotel has 38 rooms housed in the original manor house and outbuildings. In Alentejo, Portugal, check out the wine and design of **L'And Vineyards** where, in the Sky Suites, fully retractable ceilings reveal the stars.



ITALY

Architect and interior designer Michele Bonan has been busy - in Rome, **J K Place Roma** (below) opened last year; and in May, **Portrait**, part of the Ferragamo family's Lungarno Collection, launches in Florence, steps from the Ponte Vecchio. In both, Bonan combines his trademark haute-couture sophistication with supreme comfort. Venice, meanwhile, saw the arrival of **Aman Canal Grande** in the sixteenth-century Palazzo Papadopoli, overlooking the Grand Canal in San Polo. The 24 rooms unite past (centuries-old reliefs and frescoes) and present (modern furniture and furnishings).



FRANCE

For the last six months the iconic **Hôtel Plaza Athénée** in Paris has been closed while work is carried out to integrate three new buildings into the hotel, providing six new rooms, eight new suites and a ballroom. The hotel reopens in May. For art-deco aficionados, **Prince de Galles** (above) opened last year in Avenue George V, off the Champs-Élysées.



AUSTRIA

Vienna's opulent **Hotel Imperial**, a Luxury Collection hotel, is having a facelift and will re-emerge, revitalised, in June.



THE NETHERLANDS/DENMARK

In Herengracht, Amsterdam, a canal-side row of six eighteenth-century houses has been united to become the new **Waldorf Astoria** (below). Copenhagen's most historical hotel, **D'Angleterre**, was refurbished in 2013, while at the opposite end of the scale, the **Central Hotel & Café** has just one room above a coffee bar. Small it may be, but a huge amount of love and character has been injected into it by its set-designer owner.



TURKEY

Istanbul's most glamorous guesthouse has just opened. The 18 **Armaggan Bosphorus Suites** in three restored waterfront mansions (above) celebrate exceptional local craftsmanship created by the city's hottest young designers. Rooms can be rented singly, as three separate houses or as one large residence. Armaggan also has two design stores in the city. Overlooking the Bosphorus, the brand-new **St Regis** - a whopper with 1,118 rooms - opens soon. Four suites will have interiors by internationally renowned designers. >



Asia and Australasia

INDIA

In Rajasthan, equidistant between Udaipur and Jodhpur, the new **Jawai Leopard Camp** (below) has eight opulent tents decked out with chic, predominantly black-and-white interiors. Game drives reveal wolves, crocodiles, antelope and, of course, leopards. The camp can also be rented on an exclusive basis. In the foothills of the Himalayas a new resort, **Vana**, is tipped to become one the world's leading well-being retreats. Describing itself as 'an ashram of the contemporary world', Vana brings together Ayurveda, yoga, Tibetan and natural healing, spa and fitness, and is set in a 21-acre estate perched on a hillside plateau amid forests and orchards.



CHINA/JAPAN

The Temple Hotel (right) - part art gallery, part restaurant, part bar, part event space and part hotel (eight rooms were opened last year) - is a haven of peace in the heart of Beijing. An exquisite, 400-year-old Chinese Buddhist temple, now restored, forms the centrepiece around which the rest of the complex operates. Go for a room in the old monks' quarters. The Opposite House, also in Beijing, and The Upper House in Hong Kong await the arrival of sister hotel **The Temple House** in Chengdu, due to open later this year. New to Kyoto in Japan is **The Ritz-Carlton**, where much of the interior design, featuring traditional latticework and cloisonné, was inspired by the eleventh-century fictional story *The Tale of Genji*.



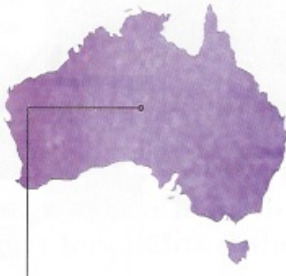
VIETNAM/CAMBODIA

Amano'i (left), the latest launch from Amanresorts, is a contemporary beach resort overlooking Vinh Hy Bay - considered one of the four most beautiful bays in Vietnam. The hotel has 31 pavilions and five Aman villas. This autumn, a floating five-star hotel, the **Aqua Mekong**, makes its inaugural journey along the Mekong River in Cambodia and Vietnam. Three-, four- and seven-night cruises will be available.



MALDIVES

Another busy year in the Maldives. Cheval Blanc Randheli arrived on the scene, followed by **Velaa Private Island**, positioning itself as the most sophisticated - and almost certainly one of the most expensive - in the archipelago. The design is gorgeous, but its quirkiest USP is the two-man submarine (above). Then there's **Maalifushi by Como**, opening soon as the first luxury resort in the Thaa Atoll. Finally, Tom McLoughlin - who brought us Huvafen Fushi - is working on two new hotels, **Amilla Fushi** and **Finolhu**, both in the Baa Atoll and slated to open later this year.



AUSTRALIA

Longitude 131° (right), the iconic, tented camp near Ayers Rock, has been taken over by Baillie Lodges - the team that manages Southern Ocean Lodge and Capella Lodge. All three are members of Luxury Lodges of Australia - worth checking out if you're off Down Under. Also under new management is **Hayman Island**, which opens after a refurbishment in July as a One & Only resort.



SINGAPORE/THAILAND

Sofitel teamed up with fashion designer Kenzo for So Mauritius; now the company has employed Karl Lagerfeld to provide design flair and a little *je ne sais quoi* at the new **So Singapore**, which launches in May. At the lavish 10-room **Iniala Beach House** (left) on Phuket, a collection of the world's top designers has been brought together to create an extraordinary showcase of contemporary design. Check out Eggarat Wongcharit's astonishing 'floating' rattan bedroom.

NEW ZEALAND/FRENCH POLYNESIA

On Banks Peninsula, on the east coast of South Island, the working farm **Annandale** has launched four private houses for rent, scattered throughout the 4,000-acre estate. Homestead, the grandest, has five bedrooms; then there's adorable Shepherd's Cottage, sleeping two; Scrubby Bay (below), on the outer reaches of the property, sleeping 14; and Seascape, a romantic retreat for two. Private hideaways don't come more remote or exclusive than **The Brando**, opening in July on Teti'aroa Island, Polynesia - once owned by Marlon Brando. Accessible only by private plane, it has impressive eco credentials. ▷



Africa and the Middle East



MOROCCO

Beachcomber, normally associated with Indian Ocean hotels, has spread its wings to Marrakech, with the recent launch of **Royal Palm**. Set a short drive from the heart of the city, and reached via a complimentary shuttle service, the hotel offers palatial luxury twinned with golf, tennis, squash and spa. On a smaller scale, with just 18 lofts and suites, **Grace Marrakech** opens this summer in the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. At Oualidia on Morocco's coast, **La Sultana** has opened a rustically romantic Treehouse Suite (left) overlooking the nearby lagoon.

OMAN

Aiila Jabal Akhdar is almost with us. It's been a while in the making but take a look at the location and you'll see why. Set on a dramatic cliff top, 2,000 metres above sea level, the hotel, with 84 suites, has incredible views of the peaks and gorges of the Al Hajar Mountains. This is a hotel for adventure lovers, keen to enjoy an unexplored area of the country. Muscat is two hours' drive away, where, at **The Chedi**, you'll find the longest swimming pool – at 103 metres (pictured) – in the Middle East.



ISRAEL

Despite the regional political troubles, tourism to Israel has never been stronger. While Waldorf Astoria, W and Kempinski are all in the offing, 2013 saw the launch of the first international five-star hotel to arrive in the Jewish state in nearly 20 years. **The Ritz-Carlton** at Herzliya, an affluent beach-side town just north of Tel Aviv, overlooks the marina and has 115 rooms and 82 suites. In Tel Aviv itself, two converted historic buildings in the UNESCO-protected White City area will open this summer as **The Norman** (above). This boutique property aims to combine the best in Israeli artwork, Mediterranean lifestyle and European hospitality.



ABU DHABI

Sir Bani Yas Island, just off the coast of Abu Dhabi, has a glittering coastline as well as a 4,100-hectare Arabian nature reserve teeming with wildlife. To an existing portfolio of two Anantara properties – the Desert Islands Resort & Spa, and Al Yamm Villa Resort – a third has recently been added, Anantara's **Al Sahel Villa Resort**. The 30 thatched villas, with canvas-shaded verandas, are located on the west of the island in a peaceful area of savannah grassland. Guided walking and jeep safaris are on offer.



SOUTH AFRICA/MALAWI

In Cape Town, **Cape View Clifton** (above) is a stunning new guesthouse with inspiring interiors and panoramic views of Clifton, the Twelve Apostles, Camps Bay, and the ocean. There are five beautifully appointed rooms and two self-catering one/two-bedroom suites; or it can be rented exclusively. In Malawi's Liwonde National Park, a new Robin Pope Safari camp, **Miyala**, opens in July. Each of the four modern tents will have a viewing deck for glimpsing the fabulous bird and animal life.

SEYCHELLES

Fregate Island Private in the Seychelles (home to Anse Victorin, one of the world's most beautiful beaches), has undergone a huge soft refurbishment programme to update not just the look of the place but also the ever-important in-room technology. Book one of the 16 villas or splash out and rent the island in its entirety.



UGANDA/KENYA

Uganda is less about accommodation and more about landscape. Nevertheless, the two are beautifully combined at **Mount Gahinga Lodge** (left), where nine stone, thatch and wooden bandas have been refurbished. Last autumn in Kenya, a bush fire destroyed Loisaba Lodge and Private House. In their place, **Loisaba** has created a new, 11-tent bush camp. And **Kichwa Tembo**, one of the original Masai Mara lodges, reopens after an extensive rebuild and renovation in July. ▷

The Americas

US WEST

Koreatown, one of the most vibrant and up-and-coming neighbourhoods in Los Angeles, has welcomed **The Line**, an edgy, urban, 388-room hotel that celebrates Korean-American culture in both its design and its cuisine. Glamping takes a new twist in northern Nevada, where **Mustang Monument** (below), a horse sanctuary and eco resort set in 600,000 acres of the Wild West, has opened.



The exquisite tipis – open for adventures annually between June and September – look authentically Red Indian on the outside but, on the inside, are lavishly decked out in Ralph Lauren.



COLOMBIA/PANAMA/MEXICO

Concrete on the outside, rich and luxurious on the inside, Bogotá's **BOG Hotel** takes its design-savvy inspiration from gold and emerald – two of Colombia's biggest exports. This is the place to see and be seen in the capital. In Panama City an urban renaissance is underway, as seen at the **American Trade Hotel**, a sensitive restoration project in the city's historic quarter brought to life by the design team behind Ace Hotels. Its 50 rooms showcase a vibrant old-meets-new design ethic. On Mexico's Pacific coast, north of Puerto Escondido in Oaxaca, 16 upscale beach bungalows form the new **Hotel Escondido** (above), where you can surf by day and dance by night in the hotel's tiny nightclub.

ECUADOR/CHILE

You don't have to be on a boat to enjoy the Galapagos Islands. New, five-star **Pikaia Lodge** (right) is the first carbon-neutral hotel in Ecuador. Sitting atop an extinct volcano on the island of Santa Cruz, the 14-room, love-it-or-loathe-it, modernist-style hotel has its own tortoise reserve and two boats for combining land with sea. It is due to open fully in October. In Chile's Millahue Valley, **Viña Vik** is a wine estate comprising 11,000 acres of valleys, lakes, vines, hills, forests and majestic mountains. A stunning four-bedroom 'cabin' is currently available for rent, but this year will hopefully see the launch of a 22-room hotel promising extravagant design reminiscent of Spain's fabulous wine hotel, Marqués de Riscal.



US EAST

In New York, the **St Regis** has had a makeover. Gone is the formal dining room, replaced by a more relaxed 'salon' adjoining the famous King Cole Bar. **The Nomad Hotel**, designed by Jacques Garcia, is altogether more cutting edge, in Tribeca. British interior designer Tara Bernerd has brought style and elegance to **Thompson Chicago** (above), in the Gold Coast area overlooking Lake Michigan. Paola Navone undertakes the interior design of her second hotel for Comò, at the **Metropolitan** in Miami, where art deco meets pastel-coloured cool.



CARIBBEAN

Mustique's only hotel, **The Cotton House** (right) has been brought back under management of the Mustique Company. A three-month closure saw the refurbishment of many of its rooms and the launch of a new Beach Café. On Canouan, the super-exclusive, super-expensive **Pink Sands Club** is about to open. The 300-acre resort will comprise luxurious suites and a collection of two- to seven-room villas, with all the trimmings.



COSTA RICA/NICARAGUA

Costa Rica's new **Andaz Peninsula Papagayo** (below) cuts quite a dash architecturally. Check out the 'meeting studios', which look like giant armadillos. With 153 rooms, the hotel blends into its wooded, hillside setting and has spectacular views of the ocean. On Playa Manzanillo in Nicaragua, where the rainforest meets the sea, **Mukul** is a design triumph. Furnishings – sugar-cane bedheads, mussel-shell chandeliers, carved teak tables – have been made by local artisans. Stay on the beach or 100 metres up in a *bohío* in the jungle canopy. It's sensational, but at no expense to sustainability.



URUGUAY/BRAZIL

From the team that brought us Estancia Vik and Playa Vik in Uruguay, now comes the third in the group, **Bahia Vik**, a contemporary, laid-back retreat comprising 11 bungalows set amid the sand dunes of José Ignacio. Fiery sunsets and riding along the beach are just two attractions. A decade ago, English nurse Chloe Gibbs left the UK to start a new life in Brazil. Last year she opened **Butterfly House** (left), a chic, eight-room refuge on the Bahia coast south of Salvador. Set within a conservation area of coast, lakes and rainforest, Butterfly House is an eco paradise, designed for those who like to mix adventure with creature comforts. It's lush, tropical and bursting with character □

